

**Question 13.** *How did God create man?*

**Answer.** *God created man male and female, after His own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.*

**I. “God created man male and female, after His own image...”**

A. When God created mankind, He made them male and female. It was God who designed the sexes of mankind, and He did so in goodness. God created man male in His image, and created female in His image. Both male and female bear the image of God.

1. **Genesis 1:26-27 (LSB):** *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

B. For many Christians, this is either assumed or simply not questioned. Our *imago dei* is not something to be taken for granted or left unappreciated. So, we should ask, why was mankind created in God’s image?

1. For mankind to be created in God’s image means that mankind is created unique above all other creatures. Why? Because mankind was created to have a unique relationship with God above all other creatures. To know what it means to be created in God’s image, we must look to Christ, the perfect man and very image of God (Col. 1:15).

- a) Anthony Hoekema proposes that Christ images God as perfect Man in three perfect aspects, which cannot be attained by fallen man in his current estate. He says, “In sum, from looking at Jesus Christ, the perfect image of God, we learn that the proper functioning of the image includes being directed toward God, being directed toward the neighbor, and ruling over nature.”<sup>22</sup>

## II. “In knowledge, righteousness, and holiness...”

A. To be made in the image of God comes with a certain knowledge. Mankind was created in a state of full knowledge, meaning we knew everything that we were supposed to know. Mankind lacked nothing. But as we will see in *Question & Answer 18*, our first parents fell from this wonderful estate by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:6).

1. **Colossians 3:9-11 (LSB):** *Do not lie to one another, since you put off the old man with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new man who is being renewed to a full knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, and freeman, but Christ is all and in all.*

B. When Adam and Eve were created, they were established in righteousness. God declared Adam and Eve to be “very good” (Gen. 1:31). Our first parents were created without sin or proclivity towards sin. Another way the Bible speaks of this is by mention of being “upright.”

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<sup>22</sup> Anthony A. Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*, (Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 1986) 75.

1. **Ecclesiastes 7:29 (LSB):** *See, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices.*

C. When our first parents were created in God's image and made upright, they were in a state and position of holiness. They had a blessed and unique relationship with God and were righteous. Only God is holy, and yet, our first parents were created in a state of holiness.

1. **Ephesians 4:23-24 (LSB):** *and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and to put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

- a) The word "holiness" means "set apart." Mankind was certainly created and set apart for God. Adam and Eve were created to be in eternal communion with God, forever worshipping Him.

### III. "With dominion over the creatures."

A. When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them both dominion over creation and all of its creatures. Man was made to rule over God's creation.

1. **Genesis 1:28 (LSB):** *God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth."*

- a) God gave Adam and Eve a dominion mandate, which means they were to cultivate their dominion and expand it throughout all of creation and subdue it all under their feet and for God. They were to fill it with worshippers of the one true God.

B. Certainly, just as our knowledge became corrupted, our righteousness vanished, and we became unholy, so our dominion suffered. Mankind still has dominion, for we were created with it; it is a part of who we are, though it is marred. However, mankind does not rule over creation as Jesus, the perfect man, did. Nature rages against us, beasts slay us, and pestilence wreaks havoc upon us.

#### IV. Application

A. This is what God created us to be. In Adam, our paradise with God was lost. But God, in His kindness towards us, planned in eternity past to send His perfect Son to redeem us and restore us to a state of holiness. Jesus, the perfect Man who perfectly images God, delivered us from the estate of sin and misery (see *Question & Answer 21 – 22*).

B. We look forward to the new creation, where God will make all things new, and we, too, will be made new in Christ Jesus, not in Adam.

1. **Revelation 21:3-8 (LSB):** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain. The first things passed away.” 5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He \*said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” 6 Then He said to me, “They are done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.*

C. Reflection Questions

1. **Question 1.** *“Are you comforted by the fact that you are made in God’s image?”*
2. **Question 2.** *“If our holiness is important to God, how important is it to us?”*
3. **Question 3.** *“What does it mean to you to be a good steward over God’s creation?”*

V. Repeat / Sing Question & Answer 9 – 13

A. **Question 9.** *How many persons are there in the Godhead?*

1. **Answer.** *There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.*

B. **Question 10.** *What are the decrees of God?*

1. **Answer.** *The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, whereby for His own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.*

C. **Question 11.** *How doth God execute His decrees?*

1. **Answer.** *God executeth His decrees in the works of creation and providence.*

D. **Question 12.** *What is the work of creation?*

1. **Answer.** *The work of creation is God’s making all things of nothing, by the Word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good.*

E. **Question 13.** *How did God create man?*

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